

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT DAVID B. OTTAWAY BY-LINE THE WASHINGTON POST THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 1976 HEADED "2D SOWETO STRIKE ENDS; MIGRANT BACKING SEEN."

2. JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, SEPTEMBER 15. THE THREE-DAY STRIKE BY BLACK WORKERS OF THIS MAJOR SOUTH AFRICAN INDUSTRIAL CENTER FIZZLED TO AN END TODAY AFTER A NIGHT OF SPORADIC VIOLENCE INSIDE THE HUGE NEARBY BLACK TOWNSHIP OF SOWETO THAT APPARENTLY TOOK SIX MORE LIVES.

3. MEANWHILE, SOUTH AFRICA FOREIGN MINISTER HILGARD MULLER ISSUED AN IMPASSIONED APPEAL TO BLACK AFRICAN STATES TO ENTER A CONCERTED "PEACE OFFENSIVE" WITH HIS COUNTRY AND THE UNITED STATES TO RESOLVE THE BURNING ISSUES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. "THE DESTINY OF ALL OF US GREATLY DEPENDS ON THIS," HE SAID.

4. SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER JOHN VORSTER'S FOUR-HOUR
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MEETING WITH RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH YESTERDAY

WAS PART OF THIS OFFENSIVE, MULLER SAID.

5. THERE WAS PRESS SPECULATION HERE THAT THERE MIGHT STILL BE A THREE-WAY SUMMIT AMONG VORSTER, SMITH AND U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER, DEPENDING UPON THE OUTCOME OF THE RULING RHODESIAN FRONT'S PARTY CONGRESS NOW UNDER WAY IN UMTALI IN EASTERN RHODESIA. SMITH IS EXPECTED TO PRESENT THE KISSINGER-VORSTER PROPOSALS FOR A TRANSITION TO BLACK MAJORITY RULE TO THE CONGRESS FOR ITS APPROVAL OR REJECTION.

6. WHILE THE STRIKE IN JOHANNESBURG APPEARED TO BE SPENT, ONE OF ITS MOST INTERESTING ASPECTS WAS THE SUPPORT BY THE MIGRANT WORKERS PACKED INTO SINGLE MEN'S HOSTELS INSIDE SOWETO. LAST MONTH THEY OPPOSED A SIMILAR STRIKE.

7. AFRICAN SOURCES SAID THIS WAS THE RESULT OF A SERIES OF SECRET MEETINGS BETWEEN HOSTEL INHABITANTS AND STRIKE ORGANIZERS WHO HAD GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS TO EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF THE BOYCOTT.

8. LAST MONTH, ZULU-LED MIGRANT WORKERS TOOK BLOODY REVENGE ON THOSE WHO TRIED TO STOP THEM FROM GOING TO WORK. THERE WAS STRONG EVIDENCE THAT THE POLICE DELIBERATELY INSTIGATED THE MIGRANTS TO REVOLT AGAINST THE STRIKE, BUT WHITE AUTHORITIES HAVE STRONGLY DENIED THESE ALLEGATIONS.

9. IN JOHANNESBURG, MORE WORKERS SHOWED UP AT THEIR JOBS TODAY THAN DID YESTERDAY AND THE RATE OF ABSENTEEISM WAS ESTIMATED AT AROUND 60 PERCENT. THE STRIKE WAS CALLED TO PROTEST THE DEATH OR DETENTION OF HUNDREDS OF BLACKS DURING THE PAST THREE MONTHS OF RACIAL DISTURBANCES HERE.

10. BETWEEN 150,000 AND 200,000 BLACKS, MOSTLY RESIDENTS OF SOWETO, ARE ESTIMATED TO HAVE JOINED THE STUDENT-CALLED STRIKE, WHICH HAS SEEN CONSIDERABLE LESS VIOLENCE THAN THE FIRST, AUG. 23-25, BUT STILL REPORTEDLY HAS RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF 16 BLACKS, ALL BUT THREE APPARENTLY FROM POLICE SHOOTINGS.

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11. THE BLACK NEWSPAPER THE WORLD, THE MAIN SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT CONDITIONS INSIDE SOWETO, REPORTED A DEATH TOLL OF 16. THE POLICE HAVE CONFIRMED ONLY THREE DEATHS. THE NUMBER OF INJURED PERSONS IS ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN 50 AND 100.

12. THE WORLD SAID THAT VIOLENCE BROKE OUT LAST NIGHT WHEN STRIKEBREAKERS RETURNING FROM JOHANNESBURG WERE

ATTACKED BY GROUPS OF MILITANT YOUTHS AND STRIKE PARTISANS
AT A HALF-DOZEN POINTS IN SOWETO.

13. IN A DEVELOPMENT APPARENTLY RELATED TO THE STRIKE,
A CHEMICAL FACTORY NEAR THE BLACK TOWNSHIP OF ALEXANDRA
NORTH OF JOHANNESBURG WAS GUTTED BY FIRE LAST NIGHT.

14. THE STRIKE HERE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE, BUT
THE ONE IN CAPE TOWN WAS REPORTEDLY MUCH LESS SO. A CAPE
TOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT "BY
AND LARGE COMMERCE IS NOT SERIOUSLY AFFECTED."

15. MANY OF CAPE TOWN'S ESTIMATED 200,000 "COLORED" (THE
GOVERNMENT'S DESIGNATION FOR MIXED RACE) WORKERS STAYED
AWAY FROM THEIR JOBS, AFFECTING PRIMARILY THE DOCKS AND
BUILDINGS INDUSTRY BUT ALSO MANY SMALL DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES.

16. MILITANT STUDENTS ORGANIZING THE CAPE TOWN STRIKE
YESTERDAY ISSUED LEAFLETS CALLING ON "COLORED" WORKERS
TO POSTPONE THE STRIKE UNTIL NEXT MONDAY.

17. MEANWHILE, MORE DETAILS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FUTURE
PLANS FOR LIMITED CHANGES IN THE WHITE-RUN NATION'S
POLITICAL SETUP WERE RELEASED AT THE TRANSVAAL NATIONAL
PARTY CONGRESS UNDERWAY IN PRETORIA.

18. THE GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM PRETORIA,
APPARENTLY PLANS A LOOSE CONFEDERATION OF THE WHITES,
"COLOREDS" AND INDIANS LIVING OUTSIDE THE HOMELANDS,
WHICH ARE RESERVED FOR THE NATION'S MAJORITY 18 MILLION
BLACKS.

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19. THE FIRST STEP TOWARD THIS CONFEDERATION WOULD BE
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONSULTATIVE CABINET COUNCIL, CON-
SISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EXISTING COLORED PEOPLE'S
REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL AND THE INDIAN COUNCIL. VORSTER
HAS CALLED THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW CABINET COUNCIL
FOR SEPTEMBER 24. ITS POWERS REMAIN TO BE SPELLED OUT.
(END TEXT.) HABIB

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